



Fellowship announcement

Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Patient Safety beginning July 2006

Purpose The purpose of the Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Patient Safety is to develop leaders with vision, knowledge, and commitment to lead patient safety efforts in the 21st century. The program includes both patient safety specific and supporting core competencies: (1) Patient Safety Specific (Theoretical Underpinnings), (2) Teamwork and Collaboration, (3) Transformational Leadership, (4) Patient-Centered Care, (5) Evidence-Based Practice, and (5) Informatics and Use of Data.

During the 1-year full-time fellowship program, the fellow is expected to complete one significant patient safety project under the supervision of an established expert in patient safety. Fellows are encouraged but not required to seek VA employment after completion of the fellowship. This fellowship location is the VISN 8 Patient Safety Center of Inquiry at the Tampa VA Hospital, Tampa, FL in collaboration with the VA National Center for Patient Safety and partnership with the University of South Florida

Eligibility Applicants must meet the following program requirements: US citizenship and completion of all requirements needed to be a fully credentialed independent practitioner in their field at a VA facility.

- Physicians must be either board-eligible or certified in a recognized medical specialty.
- Clinical fields that recognize independent practitioners possessing degree levels below that of Master's Degree (e.g., Registered Nurse or Registered Dietitian) must have completed a Master's Degree (or all requirements for the degree) to be eligible. Nurses, social workers, and health care administrators must possess at least a master's degree. Applicants in academic fields that do not involve clinical certification or licensure but that can be applicable to health systems (e.g. anthropology, sociology, computer science/medical informatics, engineering, etc.) must have received a Ph.D. in their field, or demonstrate that all requirements for such a degree have been completed.

Funding Stipend rates are determined by VA Office of Academic Affiliations, depending on the discipline and previous education of the trainee. For physicians, the stipend rate will be based on years of previously completed ACGME accredited residency training and equivalent experiences as determined by OAA and index rates approved at the affiliated university and the respective VA facility.

Application and Start Dates The deadline for application is June 1 for fellowships beginning July 1, 2006 and February 1, 2007 for fellowships beginning July 1, 2007.

Application Process. Applicants will be required to submit an application that includes a letter, of no more than three pages, stating short and long term professional goals, clinical or other pertinent background, a statement of personal goals for the fellowship, a full curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation.

Selection and Selection Criteria. A selection committee will review and rank applications based on the following criteria: quality of credentials and experience, commitment to remain in the VA system, match between personal goals and planned program activities, and strength of recommendations. The first ranked applicants will be offered fellowships. Rankings will be used to determine offerings if earlier ones are unable to enter the fellowship.

For additional information:

- Check VA's web page at <http://www.va.gov/oa/> or the VISN 8 Patient Safety Center web page at <http://www.visn8.med.va.gov/patientsafetycenter/>
- Contact Dr. Gail Powell-Cope, mailto:gail.powell-cope@va.gov or (813) 558-3911.